THE FARMERS' CABINET,

DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE AND RURAL ECONOMY.

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For the Farmers' Cabinet.

Hollow Horn.

Under the head of "Observer, No 2," in the Farmers' Cabinet, of February 1st, we find a very interesting article upon the diseases of Horned Cattle. Observer labors very ingeniously to show that "the hollow horn (or a disease attended with a wasting of the bony pith of the horn) has no existence in nature."

The author says he is aware that it is "rank heresy to deny the existence of a thing which almost every body *knows* to exist"—and without any joke upon the matter, I am inclined to the same opinion; but Observer need not fear that I will persecute him; I will neither judge him hastily nor with an uncharitable spirit; for I well know how easy it is to be deceived, and how long we sometimes hug up old errors and love them better than new truths, all of which have been imposed upon us by early education, and afterwards confirmed by prejudice and pride of opinion.

I have seen so many difficulties rise up in the path of knowledge; I have seen that time was short, that opportunities of improvement were rare, and that mankind were so often the victims of long cherished delusions, that I have learned to look upon innovations, if not with a degree of deference, at least with a charitable spirit. But, notwithstanding this kindly feeling towards heresies of every character, I am not disposed to change my opinion with less evidence than what was required by Thomas of old; and, therefore, I am not ready to believe that "hollow horn has no existence in nature," without seeing, feeling, and knowing that the fact is so.

We understand the hollow horn, according to Dr. Willich,* to be a disease, which "gradually wastes the internal substance of the horn, commonly called the pith." In opposition to this opinion, Observer says, "such a wasting of the pith does not take place. I challenge those who think otherwise to produce the horn." As I think otherwise I shall offer my reasons, and leave them with the public to decide whether they prove the fact otherwise, or not.

Observer challenges those who oppose him to "produce the horn." I ask him to look at the horn he has described under the head of "Corrupted Horn, Putrid Horn, Rotten Horn. He says, "If the inflammation assumes a more violent form, and extends to the bones, producing bony ulcerations, or caries, the discharge will be darker colored, and highly offensive, constituting putrid horn." Here is an admission of all that is necessary. If inflammation produces "bony ulceration, or caries, the discharge" will of course be the substance which constitutes the inside of the horn. If the "bony substance or pith" becomes rotten, (which is the definition of caries,) and is discharged, the pith is then out of the horn, and not in it, and consequently the horn is hollow in the sense in which we understand the question.

Observer, it is true, concludes that this disorder is the effect of injudicious boring, but he afterwards admits that it is sometimes produced by natural causes. He says "the inflamed horn, arising from colds and other causes, may terminate in corrupted or putrid horn; but that it is much more frequently produced by boring." Now, to say a thing is more frequently produced in a certain way,

* Dr. Willich, I presume, is the name.—Published in the Cabinet, Dr. Willick.—Yes.

is admitting that the same thing is sometimes produced in another way.

Therefore, it seems to follow from Observer's own showing, that, "Corrupted horn, putrid horn, rotten horn," and consequently, "hollow horn," is frequently produced by injudicious boring; but is sometimes the effect of natural causes. If future observations were even to prove that the putrid horn or hollow horn was altogether the result of boring, it would not undervalue the illustrations given of this disease by Dr. Willich and Dr. Tofts; it would only show that the disease was entailed upon us by blindly following the injudicious practice of our forefathers, to which we might probably trace most of the causes of disease in our domestic animals.

In the article quoted by Observer, Dr. Tofts does not appear to give any opinion upon the origin of this disease, whether he considered it the effect of bad management, or of natural causes. Thomas Cooper says, "the hollow horn is produced by the want of food, and the want of shelter in the winter season." It is proper here to remark that Observer has not given us one of the important symptoms of this disease by Dr. Tofts. The Dr. says "the horn is deprived of its natural heat," but Observer says "the authors quoted enumerate," "dulness in the countenance, a sluggish motion, want of appetite, a desire to lie down—and if attended with an inflammation of the brain, a giddiness, and frequent tossing of the head; stiffness, as in rheumatism, affects the limbs; the milk often fails in cows; the udder is hard, and there is in most cases a sudden wasting of the flesh." Observer, after this enumeration of symptoms from Dr. Tofts, remarks, "I would ask, what would a person infer from these symptoms, who had never heard of that disease? Would he bore a hole in the horns to look for the cause of them there? I think not." Now, suppose Observer had given the symptom of cold horn as mentioned by Dr. Tofts, would his remark in relation to boring the horn have the same point? I think not. Whatever the cause may be, it is a well known fact that cattle have a disease that deprives "the horn of its natural heat;" this we have called hollow horn, and is it unreasonable to suppose that this is the seat of the disease, and that the horn may become hollow in the manner before described?

Observer may have overlooked the symptom of cold horn as mentioned by Dr. Tofts, and not at all be acquainted with the fact, for he says, that "during life the blood must circulate through the horn, and therefore it never can be dry," and while the warm blood is constantly passing through it, we would suppose never could be cold; which is not the fact. But this paragraph I presume will not be understood in that positive sense in which it is employed, for it cannot be supposed the author knows that death will in all cases be the immediate result of suspended circulation of blood in the horn.

Upon the whole I am well pleased with the investigation of Observer, and hope that he will continue his researches into a subject so vitally important to our agricultural interests; and although his remarks seem to indicate more speculation than knowledge of facts, his whole article is fraught with the spirit of research and bold investigation, which will, if honestly pursued elicit truth. I am in a situation to see thousands of horns extracted from the hides of cattle annually; five per cent. of which I would say are said to be from cattle dying of the hollow horn; I shall therefore examine this subject in future more practically, and transmit the result of my investigation to the Cabinet.

A SUBSCRIBER.

Wilmington, 2 Mo. 7th, 1837.

Extract of a Letter to the Editor.

Lime.

"The valley of the Swatura is a good lime region, and the farmers are making good use of it;—they are using it somewhat different from the Jersey farmers. Their method, as far as my observation has extended, is to mix lime with barn and other vegetable manure, and thus make a compost, and not spread on to the ground until the lime is slacked, and the vegetable matter rotten. The method adopted by John Lansin, Esq., an intelligent practical farmer near Hummelstown, is to take his lime from the kiln and drop it on the ground in its unslacked state, and as soon as the action of the weather shall have slacked the lime, and while the weather is yet warm, he spreads it over the ground and ploughs it in in the fall, and leaves it to the action of the frosts of the winter. This method has never failed of producing a good crop; and this gentleman's farm, compared with the farms of those who have pursued different methods in the use of lime, is strong evidence in favor of his method of using it, and it is a great saving of labor and expense."

For the Farmers' Cabinet.

Oxen.

Carlisle, Pa., Feb. 11, 1837.

MR. EDITOR—I observed with pleasure in a few of the late numbers of the Cabinet, several judicious and well timed observations on oxen. In your paper of the 15th January, you gave the opinion of the late and venerated MADISON in favor of the employment of oxen, generally. A prejudice, as illiberal

as it is unjust, has existed against the ox from my earliest boyhood—but I rejoice that it is giving way, and I think I hazard nothing in saying that in the course of a few years they will be regarded by the intelligent farmer as at least equal to the horse, for the general work of the farm. WILLIAM ASHFORD, of Chester county, in a letter addressed to John Vaughn, Esq., published in the first volume of the Memoirs of the Philadelphia Agricultural Society, says—"Another thing in which I was wrong in not taking your advice, viz. not keeping oxen instead of horses. This spring all my horses became sick, and I was forced to buy a pair of oxen. I supposed that I should be tired of them, but on the contrary I am tired of horses, as I find that with my two oxen I can do more work than I could with four horses, and with half the expense. I have worked horses forty years, and if I had used oxen in their place they would have put five hundred pounds in my pocket." The following letter from the Hon. LEVI LINCOLN, of Massachusetts, is extracted from the same source, the Memoirs of the Agricultural Society. I hope it may find a place in your pages. He says, "You inquire the mode of breaking, feeding, and working our oxen. The best broken oxen are those which are early trained and accustomed to the yoke with occasional light work. They are often broken as early as at one and two years of age, with gentle and patient usage. At this period they are more docile and tractable, and it is thought become more powerful by being sooner accustomed to each other, and in the application of their strength to the draft. I believe they may be taught to travel in almost any gait; certain it is, the rate at which oxen differently broken, will walk with their load, would seem incredible to a person ignorant of the difference in the mode of their training. To accustom them to a quick pace, they should at first be driven in the yoke while young, without any, or a very light weight, and never heavily loaded, until they have arrived at full strength and maturity. A great fault with many people is too much indifference to *construction of the yoke*. Almost any shapeless piece of wood, with holes for the insertion of the bows, is made to answer; but to the ease of the draft, the adaptation of the yoke or bow to the neck of the bullock, and the position of the staple and ring in the yoke, are altogether material. For common use, and particularly for ploughing, I have found yokes were generally too short. Cattle of the largest size require a yoke from four and a half to five feet in length. In short yokes they are apt to *haul*, as it is termed, that is draw *from* each other, and to such a degree in some instances, as to cross their fore legs, and destroy their power and greatly impede their progress. I once owned a pair of cattle made totally useless by this habit, and afterwards entirely corrected by the application of a yoke of eighteen inches more length. A short yoke is necessary only in snow paths, where cattle would otherwise *crowd* against each other, the opposite of *hauling*, but of the same mischievous effect. The value of a yoke of oxen, or a pair of horses, for use in all the business of a farm admits of no comparison. So decided is the preference for the former, that I do not believe a single farmer can be found in this extensive agricultural county who performs his labor by horses without oxen, while there are *hundreds*, I had almost said *thousands*, who make no other use of horses in husbandry than to furrow for planting, and plough among their corn for hoeing.

Next to merino sheep, I consider the introduction of the short horns, *in the blood of Denton*, as the richest acquisition to the country which agriculture has received. For the dairy and the stall I speak with the utmost confidence of their pre-eminence. From my three years old heifers I have calves of the most promising appearance, and greatly excelling any I have before seen. One of the heifers gives from sixteen to twenty quarts of the richest milk, by the day, since calving; the other a little less, from the circumstance of having been in milk continually for more than a year, but her milk is in no degree inferior in quality. The last season she gave eleven quarts at a milking with grass only, and this not unfrequently. They keep as easily as the native stock, and are as hardy.

The estimate of the relative expenses of keeping a pair of horses and of oxen, is in the proportion of three for the former to two for the latter, and to this is to be added the value of the ox for beef when his strength fails for labor. If your farmers should once be induced to substitute the *ox* for the *horse* in their ordinary business, it could not fail most essentially to advance their interests."

Agricultural Implements.

No. 1.

To the Editor of the Farmers' Cabinet:

SIR—As the object of your paper is to record such theories and facts as will tend to make agriculture a science, I am induced to send you a few remarks, which, if you think worth the room they will occupy, and the trouble of publishing, you may give them a place when most convenient.

The Plough.

The object desired in a plough is to have it of such a form as to cut and turn the furrow slice in the most perfect manner with

the least possible force of team. This, I think, can be accomplished by making the face or acting side of the mould board of such a form, that the parts of the furrow which are raised shall pass from the lowest to the highest points in cycloidal curves. As these are curves by which a body will *descend* from one point to another, not in a vertical line, in the least space of time, it seems to follow as a necessary consequence that they will offer less resistance to a body *ascending* than any other form.

What the length of those curve lines should be for a given height is another consideration; perhaps they should be such as a ball would roll from the highest to the lowest points in the same space of time that the velocity of the team or moving power would cause the parts of the furrow which are raised to pass from the lowest to the highest points. The above remarks are strictly applicable to those ploughs where the relative position of the mould board and beam are stationary.

In the Hill side plough, where the mould board changes its relative position with the beam ninety degrees, so as to turn the furrow either to the right or left, each half of the share and mould board on opposite sides of a curve line from the point of the share to the tail or posterior part of the mould board, should be made as near as possible by this rule.

Chester County, Pa., Feb. 18, 1837.

For the Farmers' Cabinet.

Crib-Houses.

Some few years ago, my crib-house was so infested with rats, I thought it almost impossible to secure it from their attack. However, I had a preconcerted plan which I intended to put in operation as soon as I could make things convenient for my proceedings. In the summer of 1831, I selected a quantity of timber, and had it sawed, that it might season by the ensuing fall. Having divested the house of its original fixtures, I then commenced my new plan. Instead of making the floor of inch boards, (as we usually do,) I layed it with two inch plank. On the east side and ends, I weather boarded with cedar siding. On the west, which has a shed, I took of two inch slats, placing them on half an inch apart, and likewise inside. While cribbing my corn, I kept the doors open day and night, that the air might circulate through freely. The next spring, when thrashing the corn, I found to my benefit, that the rats had not touched it. Weather-boarding cribs on the outside is an essential benefit to every farmer. Year after year, the corn was damaged much in the east crib, and I could not account for it until I made all tight. Now, instead of my cribs being part filled with snow, they are secure. Farmers that build crib-houses should never slat them on the outside, for it is a disadvantage in two respects. In the first place it lets in rain and snow, wets your corn, stains it till it is not fit for market. In the second place, storms driving in, rot the house more or less every year.

A FARMER.

From the Baltimore Farmer and Gardener.

Work for March.

ON THE FARM.

Now the farmer must begin to bestir himself in preparation for the labors of the opening season. His implements of husbandry must all, without further delay, be examined, and those which need it be put in order; it is no time when you have *use* for a thing to be obliged to send it for repairs; the agriculturist should always be in advance of his business.

Clover.—This month the farmer will recollect is the general time for sowing the seed of this great improver of the soil. The practice among most farmers, is to sow it upon the snow, if there be any, as they thus give more uniform appearance to the field, the which, if no other advantage were to be gained by it, would of itself be of sufficient importance to render it an object worthy of every consideration; but another and most desirable point is gained; by regular sowing you keep out pernicious weeds. A fault we consider is often committed in being too sparing of the seed: many persons sow but six to eight quarts to the acre; this, if no other grass be grown in the field is entirely too small a quantity; less than twelve quarts should never be sown on an acre, and even that under particular circumstances might be increased from two to four quarts without injury, if not with decided advantage. The idea that the earth cannot support it if "too thick," is absurd; but where shall we fix the standard, to sow beyond which, is "too thick?"—the *term* is entirely too indefinite, and means really nothing which can be applied successfully to the purposes of husbandry. There is little soil, indeed, that will not, if left alone, cover its surface with some species of vegetation or other; and there is no land that will grow clover at all, but will support a full crop. But suppose we sow the seed sparingly and leave unoccupied spaces, do you presume that they will remain *bald?* If you do, you are egregiously mistaken. The earth is no idler, and whenever it possesses the principle of vitality it will exert it to the utmost of strength. Then if these unseeded places are to be filled with weeds, we would ask, would it not be infinitely preferable to have them employed in

growing healthful stalks of clover than to remain nurseries for the generation of all that is foul and useless in vegetation? Cover the entire ground with the grass intended to be grown for pasture or hay, and you keep out those intruders which, if left to their own will, will ultimately destroy your fields for either one purpose or the other.

The manure, as soon as the season will admit of it, must be hauled out and dropped in place; and your Clover fields should receive a top dressing of plaster of paris, and if you have the articles within convenient reach, they would derive great advantage from an additional top dressing of lime or marl.

Plant out your young trees and cuttings of all kinds as soon as the frost is out of the earth.

Recollect that this is the month your *cows* and *ewes* will be giving birth to their young, and that they therefore require additional attention and care. Give both, extra quantities of good nourishing food, and be careful as they approach the crisis of their labor, to keep them where they will not be disturbed by other animals. And as the season has approached when your demand upon the labor of your horses, mules and oxen, is greatly increased, recollect that if you desire them to do you good service, you should feed them well; no man ever yet lost any thing by feeding his beasts of burden with a generous hand, and that humanity, one of the best attributes of our species, would teach us to be kind to those whom Providence in his wisdom, has placed under our control.

IN THE KITCHEN GARDEN.

Rhubarb.—This delicious and healthful plant should be in the garden of every one, and yet such is the difficulty of getting folks out of the old beaten track, that it is by no means generally cultivated. It makes as good a tart as the goosberry, is much easier prepared, and is one of the best preventives of the affections of the bowels to which children are subjected that is known. A gentleman of our acquaintance assured us some months since that a daughter of his had been cured of a long standing intestinal disease by the use of this vegetable alone.

The following is the mode of culture:—Select a piece of rich sandy loam, manure it well, trench it two or three spades deep, then level the top with a rake, lay it off in squares of four feet, at the intersections of which sow your seed in drills about eight inches apart; keep them weeded and watered during the summer. These will be fit to plant out the next spring, and should be protected through the winter. If the weather should prove severe during the spring that the seed is planted, the plants should be covered by a board so placed as to protect them from the frost, while it would admit light and air freely.

Oats.

Mr. Fessenden.—There is a difference of opinion among farmers as to the proper time for sowing oats. While some contend that it is best to sow as soon as the frost is out sufficiently for the land to be worked, others insist on a different course, and choose not to sow until the ground has become quite dry and warm. It may be a fact that late sowed oats in some and perhaps in most instances, produce a greater quantity of straw than those early sown, and it may be and probably is true in as many instances, that the grain is proportionably lighter, so that if weight of grain is the prime object, that course of procedure as it respects sowing, is best, which is most likely to produce the desired result.

There seems to have been a general failure in the crop of oats through this part of the country the past season, there being but few instances, where they are so heavy by one third as they have been in other years, when no calamity has befallen them.

Notwithstanding the general failure, I had as good a crop of oats the past season, as in any former year, having over one hundred bushels, from little more than two acres of ground, weighing thirty-three lbs. per bushel. Such being the fact, it is a question with myself and others, what should be the cause of my obtaining a better crop than any other farmers in the neighborhood. That which to me appears as the probable and only cause, is early sowing. Although my ground was in no better condition than land in general, I sowed my oats several days earlier than other farmers in the vicinity.

There were several fields contiguous to mine, where the soil and cultivation were not essentially different, but which were sowed a few days later, which in every instance failed to produce a middling crop. I have always been in the habit of sowing my oats as soon as possible after the ground had become settled, believing it to be the better way, and observation and experience the past season, have only strengthened my belief, that such a course is a correct one.

A FARMER.

Remarks by the Editor.—Deane's N. E. Farmer states that "Oats cannot be sowed too early in the spring after the ground is thawed and become dry enough for sowing. The English farmers sow them sometimes in February." Loudon says, "The season of sowing oats is from the last week in February to the end of April. About the middle

of March is preferred by the best farmers." We believe, as a general rule, neither oats nor any other sort of spring grain can be sowed too early after the ground can be put in order to receive the seed in the spring. Early sown spring wheat as well as oats is much less liable to blast than such as is put into the ground late in the season.

Culture of Peach Trees.

BY THOMAS COULTER, ESQ.

Of Bedford county, Pennsylvania.

The death of young peach trees is principally owing to planting, transplanting and pruning of the same stock, which occasions it to be open and tender, with a rough bark; in consequence of which insects lodge and breed in it, and birds search after them, whereby wounds are made, the gum exudes, and in a few years the tree is useless. To prevent this, transplant your trees as young as possible, if in the kernal it will be best, as there will be no check of growth. Plant them sixteen feet apart. Plough and harrow them, but avoid tearing them up by the roots.

In the month of March or April, in the third year of transplanting, cut them off by the ground, plough and harrow among them as before, but with great care, to avoid wounding or tearing them. Suffer all the sprouts or scions to grow, even if they should amount to half a dozen or more; they become bearing trees almost instantaneously, on account of the strength of the root. Allow no animals but hogs to enter your orchard, for fear of their wounding the shoots; as a substance drains away through the least wound, which is essential to the health of the tree and the good quality of the fruit.

If the old stock is cut away the third year after transplanting, no more shoots will come to maturity than the old stump can support and nourish, the remainder will die before they produce fruit, and may be cut away.—Take care and not wound any other stock; the sprouts when loaded with fruit, will bend and rest on the ground in every direction for many years; all of them being rooted as if they had been planted, their stocks remaining tough and their bark smooth, for twenty years and upwards. If any of the sprouts from the old stump should happen to split off and die, cut them away; they will be supplied from the ground by others, so that you may have trees from the stump for one hundred years as I believe. I have now, trees from one to thirty-six years old, all from the same stump.

Young trees, formed in this manner, will bear fruit the second year, but this fruit will not ripen so early as the fruit on the older trees from the same stump. Three years after the trees are cut off, the shoots will be sufficiently large and bushy to shade the ground so as to prevent the growth of grass that might injure the trees; therefore ploughing will be useless and may be injurious by wounding them.

It is also unnecessary to manure peach trees, as the fruit of manured trees is always smaller and inferior to that of trees that are not manured. By manuring you make the peach trees larger and apparently more flourishing, but their fruit will be of a bad kind, looking as green as the leaves, even when ripe, and later than that of the trees which have not been manured. Peach trees never require a rich soil; the poorer the soil the better the fruit; a middling soil produces the most bountiful. The highest ground is the best for peach trees, and the north side of hills is the most desirable, as it retards vegetation, and prevents the destructive effects of frosts which occur in the month of April, in Pennsylvania. Convinced, by long experience, of the truth of these observations, the author wishes they may be published for public benefit, and has been informed that Col. Luther Martin, and another gentleman in the lower part of Maryland, have adopted a similar plan with great advantage.

Preparing Green Sward.

The following is part of a letter from Horace Wilder, of North Dixmont, to the editor of the Maine Farmer. The success of the practice is encouraging.

"In the spring of 1834, I prepared seventy rods of ground in the following manner:—The ground had been well laid down and mowed seven years. About twenty loads of manure, mostly from the barn windows, were carried and spread on the grass. On the 22d of May, the ground was ploughed about six inches deep, and turned over flat; it was then rolled with a heavy roller till it had the appearance of an onion bed. Five loads of a mixture of hay manure, chip manure, and leached ashes, were then spread evenly over the surface and harrowed lengthwise of the furrows. It was planted with corn, potatoes, ruta baga and white beans, and produced as follows:—Corn, twelve bushels; potatoes, forty bushels; turneps, fifty bushels; beans, one bushel. I have not stirred the ground since the crop was taken off—choosing that the manure should remain covered till the next spring, when I intended to apply a dressing of fresh manure, and plough it and plant it with corn. I considered the above method of preparing green sward for planting, as far preferable to the usual practice

of breaking up in the fall, and cross-ploughing in the spring. Ground that is broken up in the fall does not get rotted by the next spring—it is then harrowed and cross-ploughed and harrowed again; by this time the sods are entirely all upon the top and exposed to the hot drying sun, where they are tumbled about by the horse plough and the hoe through the whole summer, and afford no nourishment to the crop; but by letting the land lie till you are ready to plant, the grass gets a good start, and that and the manure being turned under together, and closely compacted by the roller, is preserved from the action of the sun and rains, ferments quickly, and affords a bountiful supply of food for the crop."

Hedges.

We commend the following letter to the attention of cultivators of the Mulberry. The method of cultivating in hedges, we think the best that has been attempted, and have little doubt of its ultimately being universally adopted. The mulberry is cultivated in this manner in the form of fence and field hedges. On the borders of fields hedges may be set out for the double purpose of fence and foliage, and the interior of fields is often covered with hedges, at suitable distances from each other to admit the passage of a hand cart or one horse wagon, for the purpose of gathering the foliage and transporting it to the cocoonery. The method of propagation is much the same in both cases, and is done by transplanting the plants from the nursery, or sowing the seed where it is intended to make a hedge.

To make a hedge by transplanting from a nursery, take plants one or two years old and set them at the distance of eighteen inches apart, or, if it be intended to make a thick set hedge, at the distance of one foot. Cut off the tops at four or six inches from the ground, leaving two buds opposite each other, and removing the rest. This causes the stock to have two vigorous branches the first year. The next spring cut one of these two branches on the same side, at twelve inches from the ground, in such manner that each plant may have a long and short one, but horizontally on the same side also one after another, all the branches, and fasten them with cords or withes, so that they may form a line parallel with the earth, and leave the entire branches untouched. At the commencement of the third year, the plants will have branches to form a hedge.

The height, form, &c. of a hedge may be regulated according to the taste or convenience of the cultivator, by cutting off the branches, when covered with leaves, and feeding the silk worm. Some cultivators are permitting standard trees to grow up out of their hedges at the distance of ten or twelve feet from each other. This is doubtless an improvement, as by cutting away the hedge, an orchard of standing trees would be left, should it ever be found desirable so to do. Rails might also be inserted in the standards, and a good fence easily made. To make a hedge from the seed it is only necessary to sow the seed and then treat the plants in the same manner as if transplanted from the nursery.

Silk Culturist.

From the Schenectada Reflector.

Seasonable Suggestions.

Before the farming operations of the season have commenced, we are desirous of drawing the intention of our readers to some objects of improvement in their farming operations. We know the distrust which farmers entertain to new practices in husbandry, and are fully apprised, that what we are about to offer forms already a part of the practice of many who will peruse our remarks. Yet if we should be instrumental in inducing a few, by our suggestions, to improve the condition of their farms, and to render their labor more productive, our object will be effected, and we shall be satisfactorily compensated for our trouble. All we ask is, that our recommendations may have a fair trial, sufficient merely to enable the experimentor to judge of their utility, and on a scale that shall involve neither great labor nor expense. And we shall offer nothing which we have not ourselves tested, and believe beneficial. We will begin with

Manures: which are the basis of all fertility in the soil, precisely in the same way that forage, grain and roots, are the basis of fatness in our farm stock. All animal and vegetable manures have once been plants, and are capable, by a natural process, of being converted into plants again. They should therefore be husbanded with care, and applied with economy. Every crop taken from a field diminishes its fertility, by lessening the vegetable food in the soil. Unless, therefore, something in the form of manure is returned to the field, an annual deterioration will take place until an absolute barrenness ensues. This fact needs no other illustration than is afforded by every bad managed farm. The object of the husbandman should be, to increase the fertility of his farm; because upon this, materially depends the profits of his labor. To do this, we advise that cattle-yards be made dishing, so as to collect the urine and liquids in the centre, and that these be kept well littered with straw, stalks, and the refuse vegetables of the farm, to take up and preserve these liquids, which are a valua-

ble part of the manures; that these yards be thoroughly cleaned in the spring, and their contents, together with the manure from the stable and pig pen, applied to hoed crops, as corn, potatoes, beans, &c. before fermentation has progressed far; that it be spread broadcast, ploughed in as fresh as possible, and the ground rolled or harrowed before planting. Thus *all* the manure will be saved, the hoed crop greatly benefitted by it, the weeds destroyed, and as much fertility left in the soil for the grain crop which is to follow as the same manure would have afforded had it lain in the yard till after midsummer, and been then applied. But if manure has rotted, it may be applied to the turnep or small grain crop. In these cases it should not be buried deep, and may with advantage, at least on dry soils, be harrowed in with the seeds, where it serves frequently a beneficial purpose in protecting the young grain from the severity of winter.

CLOVER, will grow on pretty much all soils that have been laid dry by good drains. It is the basis of good farming, on all lands susceptible of alternate husbandry. Its benefits are threefold; it breaks, pulverizes and meliorates the soil by its tap roots, and it furnishes a cheap food for plants as well as animals. A good clover lay is worth to a crop, by the food which it affords, as much as five tons of manure to the acre. To ensure a good lay, at least ten pounds of seed should be sown to the acre, and the ground well rolled. Its value, as food for plants, depends more upon the quantity of the roots than the luxuriance of the stems, though the abundance of the latter will depend in a great measure upon the number of the former. To obtain the full value of this plant, we must cultivate it as a food for our crops as well as our cattle, and in this case we should use it as such the first or second year before it has run out. There is econmy in always sowing clover with small grains, though it is to be ploughed in the same or next season. Ten pounds of seed cost upon an average one dollar; the labor of sowing is comparatively nothing. Its value to the next crop cannot be less than four times that sum, to say nothing of the food it may afford, or its mechanical melioration of the soil. We cannot avoid again urging a trial of the method of making clover hay *in cocks*, as we have heretofore recommended, notwithstanding the rebuke we have had upon this, from our esteemed friend and co-respondent, Mr. Perkins. We have followed the practice twelve or fifteen years, and hence speak from experience and with confidence, of its manifest advantages over the common method of spreading from the swath. Put it into small cocks, with a fork, from the swath as soon as it is freed from external moisture, or well wilted, and then leave it to cure. An hour or two exposure to the sun, previous to its being carted from the field, is all the further care it will require. This mode saves labor, prevents injury from rain, and secures the hay in the best possible condition.

INDIAN CORN.

There is no crop which habit has rendered more indispensable, to the wants of our families and our farms, as this. The late John Taylor, of Virginia, termed it our "meat, meal, and manure." Holding this high rank in our farm economy, it is a subject of moment to adopt the best mode of culture. As many districts are shy in producing wheat, and as this crop is seriously threatened by the new (to us) wheat insect, it becomes more a matter of solicitude to render our corn crops productive. But as this grain demands more labor in its culture than other grain crops, so it is more important on the score of profit that it should be well managed; for if thirty bushels an acre be considered only a remuneration for the labor bestowed on the crop, all that the product falls short of this must be a loss; and all that it exceeds, a net gain to the cultivator. The first consideration in regard to the corn crop, is to give it a dry mellow soil; the second that this soil be rich, fat, or fertile; and the third, that the seed be timely put in, and the crop well taken care of. Neither wet grounds nor stiff clays, nor poor grounds, will repay by their product the labor required on a crop of corn. He who has no other lands but these should not attempt to raise it as a field crop. He had better bestow his labor upon other objects, and buy his corn. We think the best preparation for corn is a clover lay, well covered with long manure from the barn yard, well ploughed, and well harrowed. It is better to give sixty loads of dung to three acres than ten, upon the ordinary lands of our neighborhood. The difference in product will not make up for the difference in labor. Corn can hardly be dunged too high. What we have to recommend that is not common in the culture of the crop, is, that double the usual quantity of seed be applied; the number of plants to be reduced at the weeding, in order to ensure three or four stalks in each hill; that the roots be not broken, nor the manure thrown to the surface, by the plough, but that the harrow and cultivator be substituted for it, which will sufficiently mellow the surface and destroy weeds; and that the hills be but slightly earthed. By ploughing and hilling, we conceive the manure is wasted, the crop more exposed to injury from drought, and the labor increased.

If the fodder which the stalks and shucks

afford is an object to the farmer, as they certainly will be when their advantages are appreciated, the securing these in good condition is a matter of importance. To effect this, as well as to secure the crop from the effects of early autumnal frosts, we recommend the practice we have long and satisfactorily followed, of cutting the crop as soon as the corn is glazed, or the surface of the kernels has become hard, and of immediately setting it up in stocks to ripen and cure. This we have always been enabled to do early in September, and once in the last week in August. The quality of the grain is not impaired, nor the quantity, in our opinion, diminished by this mode of arrangement; while the fodder is greatly increased, and its quality much improved.

From the Genessee Farmer.

Sowing Clover Seed.

Extract of a letter from a subscriber at Cayuga: "As the time for sowing clover seed is approaching, some note in your paper of practical farmers on that subject may be of some service, and save some trouble of complaining of the loss or failure of their expected crop of clover. For several years past I have practised sowing my seed the last of March or first of April, when we have frosty nights and thawing days. The mornings then are generally still—the surface of the ground is raised by the spears of ice formed during the night—and if the seed is cast on the ground such mornings, it finds its way through the crevices occasioned by the ice beneath the surface of the earth sufficiently deep to protect the young plant from the drouths of April or May, by which our clover crops is frequently destroyed, if the seed is sown when the surface of the earth is compact. Since I have practiced in this way, I have not failed in a single instance of having a full crop of clover."

Attention Husbandmen.

This is the season of the year when every good husbandman should be looking to his sheep and lambs—cows and calves—oxen and horses—barns and stables—fences and farming utensils. The sheep should be protected from March's chilling and pitiless storms; furnished with a proper rack for hay; with water, salt, and beans or corn at proper seasons; the milk cows and working oxen should be fed often, and with but little at a time; seasonably watered, carded, and fed, now and then, (in addition to hay,) the latter with corn or grain, and the former with cabbages, carrots, or other vegetables. They should also have salt, or an opportunity to visit the sea shore and obtain sea weed, which would supersede the necessity of salt. Carding and rubbing are all important to horned cattle and horses at this season of the year; give them these attentions, and they will be in better order with *two-thirds* of the hay, &c. that would otherwise be required.

A Clover Box.

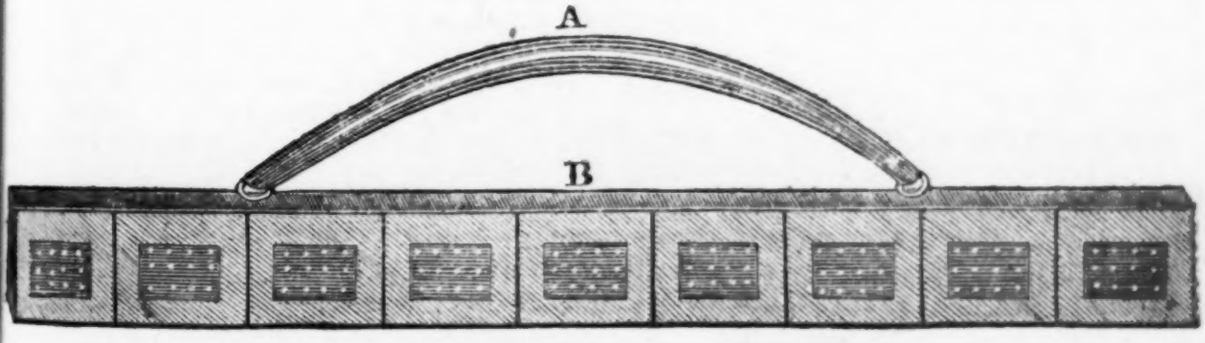

Fig. 30. A.—Leather Strap. B.—Clover Box.

A gentleman who is much attached to agriculture, on a recent visit to the Eastern Shore of Maryland, saw there a box, which is in general use for sowing clover seed; by which great economy is produced, and the seed is placed on the ground with entire certainty and equality.

Fifteen acres were sown with one bushel of seed, and the clover was well set, and the plants in sufficient numbers—not a part of the field was passed over without its having been well seeded.

The Box is exceedingly simple in its construction, and could be made at a very small expense. A drawing of it is given above.

It is ten feet, or eight feet in length, and about four inches in breadth, divided into partitions of six inches long. In the bottom of each partition is an opening of about three inches square, in which is inserted a piece of tin, or parchment, or stiff paper, perforated with a number of holes of a sufficient size for the clover seed to pass through. In each partition the seed is placed. To the box is fixed a strap, which is passed over the shoulders of the sower, and carrying the box

before him, he walks over the field, agitating the box by his hand if it requires more movement than it receives from his walk. In this manner the seed is equally scattered over all the ground.

If thought necessary, a peice of wood may be hooked on the bottom of the box, to prevent the seed dropping out before the sowing commences. The box may be made of light cedar, and not weigh more than six or eight pounds without the seed.

[At the request of many of our subscribers who commenced taking the Cabinet the first of the present year, we republish the foregoing illustration and description of a Clover Box, from the 8th number of the present volume. We have heard it highly recommended by gentlemen of intelligence who have tried it, and found it to answer all their expectations. One of the first farmers in a neighboring state assures us that he would not be without this Clover Box for twenty times its cost.]

Culture of Silk---Fabrication of Beet Sugar.

We have on file several interesting articles on the culture of Silk, in its various branches, and the fabrication of Sugar from the Beet Root. We defer them, however, until the next and succeeding numbers of the Cabinet in order to lay before our readers the following report submitted to the Legislature of New Jersey, by a committee appointed by that body to inquire into the expediency of protecting and encouraging the culture of Silk and the manufacture of Beet Sugar in the state of New Jersey. Several of our subscribers, residing in New Jersey, have requested its publication in the Cabinet. We cheerfully comply with the request—and we commend the report to the attention of our readers in all sections of the Union, as containing matter of general interest.

The right and duty of the legislature to sustain and promote the agricultural interests of the community, except in the prohibited mode designated in the national compact, cannot be denied. The exercise of this unquestioned right, in fostering those arts, which contribute to the wealth, population and political importance of the community, is frequently necessary to support them in their infancy, and has always been deemed proper, just and politic. It will be universally conceded, that if the culture of silk and manufacture of beet sugar, can be successfully prosecuted in our state and country; they constitute interests, well justifying legislative protection and encouragement. The now eminently successful manufacture of silk and sugar in Europe, in comparison with the feeble efforts of those who were instrumental in their introduction, renders it sure and certain that these two articles will be two of the greatest agricultural interests in the state and nation. The commencement of the manufacture of silk at Constantinople, by means of the introduction of the eggs of the silk worm, in hollow canes of two missionary monks from China, in connexion with the comparatively limited knowledge of the modes of profitably using the productions of these interesting insects, and the feeble beginning of the manufacture of beet sugar in Prussia, lead irresistably to the conclusion, that the hopes of the enterprising and patriotic friends of these two branches of industry in our country, are not the fanciful creations of an excited imagination, but based on good and sufficient grounds. The establishment and profitable prosecution of the manufacture of silk and sugar in other countries, with climates similar to ours, added to the admitted enterprise and industry of our own fellow citizens, are, it is deemed, sufficient guaranties, with proper protection, to ensure with us a like successful result, and impart confidence in the sentiment entertained by so many valuable citizens that they will become two of the staple products of the northern and middle states. Let no individual question these fondly cherished anticipations, who reflects that fifty years ago the great southern staple was unknown among American productions. That it was then not known that cotton would grow in any part of our American soil. That in the year 1791 there were but two hundred thousand pounds of cotton exported, and that the export of this article now amounts to nearly four hundred millions of pounds annually. That "the first cotton supposed to be of American growth, brought to New-York for foreign export, it is said, came from Savannah in the year 1792, and consisted of only two bags." That then its production was limited to one state, while it has now become the staple of seven states, regulating by its price the value of most other productions of our whole country, and supplying, in addition to our own great and increasing demand, two thirds of all that is used in foreign climes. Let no enterprising citizen hesitate in arriving at a favorable belief on these important subjects, and carrying his faith into practice, who remembers, that as late as the year 1803, the production of sugar from the cane had only commenced in Louisiana, and that it has increased so rapidly, as to furnish sixty millions of pounds annually, and will, it is confidently believed, in a short period, with the anticipated products of the sugar beet of the north, furnish not only a supply for the whole population of the nation, but constitute one of the valuable staple exports of the United States. These things demonstrate, that native ingenuity, enterprise, industry, and perseverance, are not surpassed in any other country,

and all that is wanting in our own state, to enable our citizens to produce the most beautiful fabrics of silk, and the finest qualities of sugar from the beet, is proper information, instruction and encouragement.

The committee, although averse to entering into any details in relation to these subjects, cannot feel that they have performed their whole duty, without embodying herein some of the particular facts necessary to satisfy the legislature and their constituents, that the protection by the committee deemed proper and necessary, would not be useless, but calculated to advance the real interests of the people of the state. They conceive it proper in this connexion, to observe that this report is nothing but a compilation from the various periodical and other publications, which the liberality of some of our enlightened capitalists and enterprising countrymen have disseminated through the land.

The committee would further state, that in looking at the subjects entrusted to them, they have regarded with pleasure the interests of the farmer thereby so peculiarly and beneficially affected. While the legislature is properly extending its guardian care to the manufacturing and mercantile concerns of the state let it not withhold its protection from the agricultural interests, which constitute the foundation of the general prosperity.

SILK.

The cultivation of the mulberry lies at the foundation of the silk business, and although there are many varieties, yet the Italian and Chinese are conceded to be the better. The doubts which have been entertained, whether the latter can be acclimated, have been entirely removed, and experience has confirmed the important truth, that the Chinese mulberry can be cultivated to any extent, with safety in our country. The planting of the trees, the raising and feeding of the worms, the production of the cocoons, and the reeling of silk, are properly agricultural pursuits. The modes of cultivating the mulberry, managing the worms, and reeling the silk, are so clearly delineated in the various treatises and periodicals on the subject, which have been published, as to render any remarks in relation thereto unnecessasy. Those who feel an interest in the subject, can and will have access to these publications. The culture of silk is not entirely a new business in our country: for it has been, in various places, commenced and successfully carried on, and fully proved itself to be as healthful and as pleasing, as it is useful and profitable. What delightful anticipations may not be enjoyed in looking at the introduction of the silk business, in relation to the saving the great amount of money expended in the purchase of foreign silks, which now exceeds ten millions of dollars annually.

Beautiful specimens of silk, in the form of sewing silk, produced from worms raised and fed in New Jersey, have been exhibited to, and are now in the possession of the committee. Experiments here and elsewhere have clearly demonstrated, that there is no delusion in relation to the offer, which the silk business holds out to every class of our citizens, especially the industrious poor, and that it may be prosecuted with great advantage, without any danger of failure.

The idea generally entertained, that new enterprises are not to be undertaken without large capitals, is wholly inapplicable to this business. "No more capital is required than can be obtained by any person of common honesty and industry," and although, for the first two or three years very little profit can be reasonably anticipated, if commenced in a small way, yet the committee hesitate not to declare their belief, that any industrious citizen would in a few years in this business, not only realize a competency, but wealth and affluence. The truth of which may be clearly perceived by an examination of the accompanying documents, marked numbers one and two; prepared with great care by those who are well acquainted with the subject.

The cultivation of this beautiful article of luxury and comfort, need not materially interfere with the general productions of the agriculturist. The substitution of mulberry hedges, for the usually rude division fences of farms, would be equally economical, useful, and ornamental, and in this way alone furnish a considerable amount of food for worms. The particular management of the worms, is required at a season of the year when the usual labors of the farm are not the greatest, and may well be performed by females and by those too young and too old to engage in other more laborious pursuits. The reeling of the cocoons may be postponed as a suitable employment for the long evenings of winter, now comparatively without employment, add to the cheerfulness of the domestic circle, and constitute a profitable, as well as an agreeable occupation.

SUGAR.

The eminent success which has attended the manufacture of sugar from the beet in France, and the peculiar adaptation of some parts of the State of New-Jersey, to the cultivation of this vegetable, render this subject one of like deep interest to our fellow citizens. It is not to be expected or desired by the committee, that our farmers should turn their whole attention to the making of sugar; but, if it can be shown, that the manufacture of sugar, from the beet, can be profitably pursued among us, it will not be denied, that its protection and encouragement will serve to create a ready home market for a new agricultural production, at least as advantageous for the farmer as any other of the products of our lands. The committee would here remark, that the proper species of the sugar beet, is the white or Silesian and the rose colored, the seed of which, it is understood, can be obtained of

either the secretary or treasurer of "The Beet Sugar Society of Pennsylvania," at Philadelphia. They need not set forth particularly the various processes in the manufacture of sugar from this easily cultivated vegetable. The taking up and clearing the roots, rasping them, pressing the pulp, dessication, evaporation, clarification and concentration, are all laid down with such admirable fulness in the reports and proceedings of the said society, as to supersede any other allusion thereto. They can be procured by any individual who should desire them, it is presumed, of any of the association. The soil best suited to the growth of the beet, the mode of cultivation, the time of sowing the seed, the period and manner of gathering and protecting the crop, which come legitimately within the interests of the cultivator of the soil, are beginning to attract very general attention and will soon be well understood. More than enough is known in relation to this subject, to satisfy the most scrupulous, that this business in all its branches is highly profitable. The average yield of the beet, in well selected locations in our state, would be about forty thousand pounds per acre a year, which would be worth, if the manufacture thereof is carried on, after deducting the expenses of cultivation, about sixty dollars. These forty thousand pounds of beet will yield about three thousand pounds of sugar. The cost of the manufacture of sugar, will be about four cents the pound, leaving all above that sum, for which it can be sold, nett profit. The cost of machinery necessary to produce one hundred thousand pounds of sugar, annually, would not exceed five thousand dollars; and yet in the neighborhood of Arras, in France, *there is an individual, who chiefly by means of the ordinary domestic utensils, in a room fourteen feet square, absolutely made good sugar.* The experiments which have been made in this country, have satisfied the enteprising individuals, who have examined the subject, that a larger per cent. of good granulated sugar, from the beet, has been obtained in this country than in France; and that the Silesian beets which have been grown here, have been very large, and more productive than ordinary beets. This result cannot fail to be received with the highest gratification, when it is remembered, that the sugar manufactured from the beet in France last year, amounted to eighty millions of pounds—one third more than was procured from the cane during the same period, in our own country.

The committee have seen samples of beet sugar, not surpassed in beauty or richness. The refuse of the sugar house, the cakes, are given to cattle and sheep, and are esteemed excellent food. The molasses, when mixed with water and poured on chopped straw, is devoured voraciously by horses as well as cattle and sheep. This species of food, is not only good for fattening cattle for market, but very fine for the dairy.

The committee, however, forbear to extend remarks, and have only indulged in them from the universal gratification it is believed would be afforded, to witness the profitable production and manufacture of silk and sugar introduced into the state. They feel that at no distant period, the silk and sugar of the north, will equal the cotton and rice of the south; and that an exchange of these useful and ornamental articles, among the associated sisters of the confederacy, will constitute a very important branch of trade, and serve to equalize the prosperity of the nation, and render more firm and stable, the bond of our Union, so essential to the preservation of national freedom.

The committee have been exclusively actuated in the preparation of this compilation, by a desire to awaken public interest to the consideration of the very interesting and important subjects confided to them, and trust they have discharged their duty, as fully performed, as their varied duties would permit, if they shall succeed in drawing public attention to these two branches of industry; by which thousands of our fellow citizens might acquire subsistence and wealth, and greatly promote the common weal.

They herewith submit two bills, providing protection and encouragement to those subjects, and in conclusion, would refer to similar enactments in all the northern states, in relation to silk, and to the success which has attended these legislative provisions, and to the thriving and flourishing manufactories of sugar abroad, and earnestly and respectfully say to their fellow members and common constituents, *go thou and do likewise.*

All which is submitted, by order of committee.

G. P. MOLLESON,
Chairman.

Cultivation of Spring Wheat.

Extract of a letter from the Hon. JAMES M'CALL of Rushford, Allegany Co., N. Y.

In answer to your inquiries with regard to my experiments and experience in the culture of Spring Wheat, I have the pleasure of saying they have both been very satisfactory. Previous to 1833, I had not for fifteen years sown any of that kind of wheat; when I was induced to sow two acres with three bushels of seed. The product of these two acres was seventy bushels of wheat. In 1834 my winter wheat was very badly frozen out; I went on and harrowed in Spring Wheat as soon as the frost had left the ground. Twelve acres of this wheat produced two hundred and seventy-six bushels, or twenty three bushels per acre. Another piece of five acres produced one hundred and forty-nine and a half bushels, or thirty bushels to the acre. Another piece sown on wheat stubble, produced twenty-two bushels to the acre.

Last spring I sowed ten acres of wheat, stubble, which was ploughed once in No-

vember, and the seed was harrowed in as early in the spring as the frost would permit; this will yield me twenty bushels per acre. I also sowed four acres from which corn had been taken the year previous, and which will give me thirty bushels to the acre. As a continuation of my former experiments of sowing Spring Wheat on winter killed wheat, I sowed one bushel on some spots where Winter Wheat had been killed out by snow drifts, one half at least was picked up by the pigeons, yet the remainder produced sixteen bushels, and had I have sown all that was killed out of the piece of nine acres, it would have added to my crop fifty bushels more.

I am so well satisfied with my experience on this subject, that I would in all cases where wheat is badly winter killed, whether in spots, or generally, recommend to sow the ground with Spring Wheat, and harrow it in as early as you are satisfied the old roots are dead. Harrowing lightly over wheat that is alive will not injure the roots at all, and the scattering Winter Wheat that grows up will produce no injurious effect. Between the two you are sure of a good crop; and besides you keep out of the land, grass, weeds, and other foul stuff, such as cockle, chess, &c., which every farmer knows will spread on the unoccupied soil to a thousand fold.

Genesee Farmer.

Clover and Rye Grass.

In the selection of clover and rye grass seeds, particular attention should be paid to their quality and cleanness; the purple color of the clover seed denotes that it has been ripe and well saved: and the seeds of weeds may be detected in it by narrow inspection, if there be any; but various noxious weeds are frequently mixed up with the seeds of the rye grass which it is difficult to discover or to separate from them. Between the seeds of the annual and perennial rye grass the difference is hardly discernable; and therefore, unless of his own growth, the cultivator must depend in a great measure on the character of the person from whom he purchases it.

The after culture of clover and rye grass consists chiefly of picking off any stones or other hard bodies which may appear on the surface in the spring succeeding that in which it was sown, and cutting out by the roots any thistles, docks, or other large grown weeds.

After this the surface should be rolled once, to smooth it for the scythe. This operation is best performed in the first dry weather in March. Some give a top dressing of soot, gypsum, common lime, peat, or wood ashes, at this time or earlier; gypsum has been particularly recommended as a top dressing for clovers, and the other herbage legumes, because as their ashes afford that substance in considerable quantities, it appears to be a necessary ingredient of their food. Dutch ashes have been strongly recommended as a top dressing for red clover, and they also contain gypsum; but where the soil is in good heart, and contains calcareous matter, any description of top dressing though it may be of advantage when it does not interfere with the general economy of the farm, cannot be considered as necessary.

The taking of the clover, or clover and rye grass crop, is either by cutting green for soiling, by making into hay, or by pasturing. It is observed in the "Code of Agriculture," that it is a most important point to ascertain in what cases cutting, or feeding, is most beneficial. If fed, the land has the advantage of the dung and urine of the pasturing stock; but the dung being dropt in irregular quantities and in the heat of summer, when it is devoured by insects, loses much of its utility. If the dung arises from the herbage, whether consumed in soiling, or as hay, were applied to the land in one body, and at the proper season, the operation would be more effectual. The smoother of a thick crop, continued for any time upon the ground, greatly tends to promote its fertility; and it has been pretty uniformly found, after repeated trials, upon soils of almost every description, that oats taken after clover that has been cut, either for soiling or hay, is superior to the crop taken after clover pastured by sheep.

Manufacture of Beet Sugar.

We copy the following from the Journal des Debats, a French publication of April 15, 1836, for the purpose of showing the simplicity of the process of manufacturing beet sugar, and the little expenditure which is necessary to prosecute the business on a small scale. "Four residents of the village of Wallers, department of the north, one a blacksmith and the others farmers, formed, some months since, an association for manufacturing beet root sugar, with a capital of 400 francs [$75,] in four equal shares of 50 franks a piece. They were able, every day, to make a loaf of sugar of medium quality, weighing from forty to fifty pounds. The following is their simple mode of manufacturing the sugar. They used curry combs to rasp the beet roots with, and linen bags for expressing the juice; the syrup thus obtained was boiled in the family iron pot, on the blacksmith's fire. By these simple means they were able to make a loaf every day." If with this rude apparatus these men were enabled to make forty or fifty pounds daily,

cannot every farmer with a trifling expense, furnish himself with machinery for making sugar for his own consumption?

Silk Advocate.

The following communication was read before the Horticultural Society at its last meeting, and ordered to be published in the Farmers' Cabinet.

To the Horticultural Society of Pennsylvania.

Blight in Pear Trees.

From a series of experiments I have been enabled to check the blight in my pear trees for a number of years, by finding the disease to originate from the root; which being of a very porous or spongy nature, absorbs moisture very rapidly, and if the wood of the pear grafted thereon, be also of a porous nature, a rapid growth is the consequence, which is the reason why such pear trees outstrip others of a more close, or compact wood. The latter I find do not blight to as great a degree as the former.

The pear tree requires a soil that is of an even, cool temperature of moisture; the sudden transition from dry to wet, and wet to dry, predisposes the tree to blight. Other cases occur when the tree has been in constant tillage, with a sudden transition of the sward, always terminating in blight in a more or less degree.

I have observed the blight attack them after being accustomed to stand in sward by a sudden cultivation by tillage,—that in all cases the pear tree does best by keeping the ground cool, and in an even temperature of moisture.

Many other fruit trees will bear all the sudden transitions from wet to dry, and dry to wet, with tillage, and without it; but not so with the pear,—the sap flowing through the porous pear roots rapidly in the spring, and then suddenly checked by drought, causes the blight,—and the sudden flow of the sap in summer, after having been checked, will generally cause a quick progress of the blight.

I would therefore recommend that the roots of the pear be kept in an even and cool temperature of moisture, from the 1st of May to the 15th September, by covering the ground with hay, stones, bricks, &c., three to four feet further out than the roots continue to extend,—so thick as to prevent the growth of the grass.

The black spots in the wood of the part diseased, originate from an overplus of sap, and are the effect, and not, as many suppose, the cause of the disease.

The pear tree ought never to be luxuriantly pruned, but moderately every year in July or August, in a dry time. My attention has been for a number of years employed in the cultivation of fruit trees, and I am induced to believe that we can be moving onward in other things besides internal improvements.

Any way that the rapid growth to a medium can be effected, and so restrained from spring to fall, will be conducive to the longevity of the pear tree.

I have seen the pear do well on quince, thorn, and apple. The blights not attacking them as when grafted on pear. The root of the pear is more spongy and absorbs the moisture more readily than the quince, thorn and apple, causing the difficulty of keeping the pear to the requisite medium on pear roots.

I have observed other fruit trees affected with blight; on examination, the wood of such were soft and very porous; when in a wet time, having had an overflow of sap, which caused a surfeit or blight. The more hard and compact the wood is, the less liability there is of blight. The sickel pear is of this description, and will not require that attention in guarding against the disease as some others.

When the roots of the pear are compact and less porous than ordinary, the hot ground with much rain has not that effect in blighting; which is the reason some trees have not been known to blight.

In a general conclusion on the subject, the ground should be kept cool through the summer, when an excess of rain will not or rather cannot cause or create the aforesaid disease.

I shall at some future day communicate some other remarks on the aforesaid subject, which I deem not essential at this time. But have thus early in the season thrown before you the foregoing, in order for the preservation of the fruit in question.

Very respectfully,

SAMUEL REEVE,

Proprietor of the Salem Nursery, N. J.

FAT CATTLE.—In the earlier period of the last century, the gross weight of the cattle sold at Smithfield did not, on an average, exceed 370 lbs. and that of sheep 28 lbs; whereas, at present, the average weight of oxen is estimated at about 800 lbs. and that of sheep at 80 lbs.

The new Silk Factory at Dedham, Mass. is commencing operations. When in full operation it will run 1600 spindles, and employ 100 females.

From the Plainfield Union.

The Farmer and Merchant Contrasted.

The Mind stupendous! which contrived the world,
And first its mighty plans to man unfurl'd!
Appointed *him*, the earth to till, and dress,
And bade the *earth*, his cheerful labors bless.—
'Twas Heaven's appointment! for we trace from *thence*
The Farmer's labor, and his recompense!
All other occupations, but depend
On *his*, for birth, for sustenance, and end:
Thus should we swell the husbandman's renown,
His is the triumph! *he* should wear the crown.

Th' industrious Farmer, through his God can *most*
Of happiness and independence boast:
'Tis his to plough, and plant, and sow, in hope;
Then reap the harvest, the abundant crop!
Labor suffuses o'er his cheek the glow of health,
That *treasure*, richer than the sluggard's wealth!
He hastes from toil, the frugal meal to greet;
And proves the sleep of industry "is *sweet*."—
If *blessed*, his pleasures are the quiet home,
Where fashion with its tumult doth not come;
His faithful partner, and his smiling boy!
Lighten each care, and sweeten his employ:
His stock the charge he loves, and trusty steed,
Well disciplined for toil or pleasures need;
These are his joys! and if the *heart* be right,
Thanks with each gift enjoyed, will still unite:
He blesses God, for rain and dew from heaven;
For fruitful seasons, and the harvest given.

Not so the *merchant!** his is all the strife,
The weariness, the bustle, and turmoil of life!
Mingled with buoyant spirits, fed by *hope*,
Which doth so oft the path to sorrow ope:
Solicitude is *his!* he would compete
With rival traders and their schemes defeat:
Here is the snare! and here alas! he strays
From rectitude, and honor's sacred ways!
He lives beyond his means, his treasures flow
T' eclipse his *neighbor*, in his pomp and show!
His business is extended, thus to meet
The calls with which *ambition* is replete:
His obligations swell, and soon fall due,
He borrows, pays, and hope lights up anew.
But now fresh trials from their fountains burst!
His debtors break, and credit *too* is crush'd:
Perplexed, his books are searched, but ah! he finds
Ten times his *capital* is "scattered to the winds!"
Poor man! he doth indeed *affect* a smile,
Though racked with *inward* agony the while
For still the *quickened* step, the *hasty* meal;
The secret workings of his mind reveal;
His "like the troubled sea that cannot rest,"
By conscience tortured, and by grief oppress.—
Perchance he still tugs through, and fights his way,
While hope yet whispers of a *brighter day!*
He gains fresh strength, begins the year *anew;*
But ah! its *close* tells the *same* history too.
Years, succeed years, ambition still lives on,
Excitement bears him up, when *peace* has gone.—

May-be his fortune changes! and he gains
The summit of his wishes, and his pains:
Rich in *estate!* but robbed of joyous health,
He's but the *poor* man, *burdened with his wealth!*
For where the riches *true*, to man are given,
They lead to peace, to competence, and Heaven.

CLEMENTINA.

*The city merchant is here referred to.

The Grape of America.

"There are hundreds of acres of grape vines," says the New-York Morning Star, "near the Great Descent in Arkansas, loaded with the richest clusters of grapes of the same quality with those producing the valuable wines in Europe. These grapes (Vitis vinefera) are growing wild on the sands, and wasting their fragrance on the desert air." This, if true, is something new in Pomological History. Hitherto it has been supposed that this species was indigenous only to the old world; and although in the wilds of North America are found a number of distinct species of Vitis, not known in the old world, yet the *vinefera* was not to be found here till after it was introduced by Europeans. We should be glad to see this statement confirmed.

W. W. B.

Potatoes as Food for Sheep.

In conversation with a gentleman (who has traveled about a good deal) some weeks since about managing and raising stock, &c. he told me in traveling in the western part of this state, or in Ohio, some years since, he stoped at an old Friend's house to stay all night; and while there, he saw some one about the establishment chopping up potatoes, to about the size of partridge eggs. He inquired what the chopping mass was intended for; the Friend replied, "It is for my sheep: with chopped potatoes and a small quantity of hay, I can keep a flock of sheep fatter and in better health than any other way I have ever tried or seen tried. The gentleman said he saw the flock of sheep before he left, and finer, fatter looking sheep he never saw.—*Farmer's Register.*

PRICES CURRENT.

ARTICLES.	Philadelphia, Feb. 24.	Baltimore. Feb. 23.	New York, Feb. 23.	Boston, Feb. 22.
Beans, white, per bush	$1 80—2 00	1 37—1 50	2 20—2 50	2 50—3 00
Beef, mess, new, per bbl	14 00–14 50	14 50–15 00	13 50–14 00	15 50–15 [illegible]
Bacon, western, per lb	12 13	17— 18	.....	.....
Butter, extra, per tub	17— 18	.....	.....	22— [illegible]
Butter, fresh, per lb. (market,)	25— 31	25— 37½	25— 37	30— 37½
Hams, per lb	13— 14	.....	13½— 14	14— 15
Hog's Lard, per lb	14— 15	15— 16	15— 16	16— 17
Cheese, American, per lb	10— 11	10— 11	8½— 10	9— 10
Beeswax, yellow, per lb	26— 27	28—	27— 28	28— 30
Beeswax, white,	37— 39	40—	38— 40	38— 40
Bristles, American,	40— 65	.....	25— 65	30— 75
Flax, American,	9— 10	.....	8½— 9½	—9 12
Flour, best, per bbl	10 50–11 00	12 00–13 00	11 62–11 87	12 37–12 50
GRAIN—Wheat, per bush. Penna	2 10—2 35	.....	.....	—2 12½
do. Maryland,	2 05—2 25	1 40—2 30	.....	.....
Rye, per bushel,	1 50—	1 20—1 25	—1 40	2 12—2 25
Corn, do	80— 94	— 95	1 04—1 10	1 12—1 15
Oats, do	50— 53	55— 56	50— 60	65— 70
Barley, do. Penn	83— 90	.....	1 06—1 09	90—1 00
Peas do	.....	1 12½—	1 00 1 06	.....
HAY, Timothy, per 100 lbs	1 10—1 25	.....	.....	.....
Meadow Grass,	90— 95	.....	.....	.....
Hemp, American dry rot, ton,	175 00–	120 00–140	130 00–140	2 75—3 00
Hops, first sort, 1836, lb	10— 11	— 16	.....	9— 10
Plaster Paris, per ton,	5 00—5 25	3 00—3 25	4 00—	.....
SEEDS—Cloverseed, per bushel,	7 25—8 00	8 25—8 50	.....	—14 17
Flaxseed, rough, do	1 85—1 90	—1 50	1 65—1 75	—1 50
Timothy,	2 25—2 75	3 00—3 50	2 25—2 50	3 00—3 12
Tallow, per lb	— 11	— 8½	— 9½	9— 10
WOOL—Saxony, fleece, per lb	68— 75	55— 68	75— 80	85—1 00
Merino,	60— 67½	48— 55	50— 68	65— 70
1-4 and common,	40— 44	36— 40	25— 40	50— 55

Remarks.

The *Flour* market still remains inactive; Factors demand $11 per barrel for superfine Flour, while sales have been made on Market street at $10,50 to $10,75. The wagon price has varied from $10,12½ to $10,50, and but few buyers have appeared at those prices. Rye Flour and Corn Meal continue as last noted, with sales. *Grain.*—The supplies by water have been limited. Sales of Ohio Wheat in lots, 1600 a 1800 bushels, at $2,25 to $2,28 per bushel. Market again bare of Rye. Sales of Penna. yellow Corn at 95 a 96 cts. Oats are steady at 52 a 53 cts. per bushel. *Seeds.*—Cloverseed is steady at $7 to $7,75 per bushel; one lot of very prime brought $8. Flaxseed—A sale of 600 bushels Maryland at $1,85. In New-York, Rough is offered at $11,50 per tierce. *Silk.*—A sale of 6000 lbs. raw Silk, for export, price not reported.

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